

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS



THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS




APRIL 14 - 15 @ 8 P.M.

**“LETTING OUR
WALLS CRUMBLE”**

CREATED BY TACEY WIDRICK

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2022-2023
SEASON**

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Mission Statement: As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

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saw tonight, please
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**THE PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING, OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO
RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

“LETTING OUR WALLS CRUMBLE”

Created by Tacey Widrick

CAST

Anxiety/Hope Annika Stockbauer
Anger/Love Ashton Ritter
Distracted/Present Heidi Schoenhals
Joy Hannah Lim
Peace Tacey Widrick

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager Lea Ratos
Lighting Designers Bryce Jache and Madison Hanks
Project Advisor Gregg Hurley
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department Daniel Inouye
Technical Director Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager Patricia DuBois
House Manager Sunny Almeyda
Light Board Operator Madison Hanks
Sound Board Operator Bryce Jache

SPECIAL THANKS

To my parents: Thank you for supporting me through all my years of dance. You saw my passion and helped fund my way to my future career.

To Gregg Hurley: Thank you for being an amazing advisor. Thank you for putting in all the work to help me bring my show to fruition, as well as bringing me to graduation. Thank you for being an amazing dance teacher and continuing to help me grow.

To my past dance teachers: You have helped form me into the dancer I am today. You helped me get into college and continue to influence me in my personal dance style.

To my husband: Thank you for giving up time with me so that I could complete this show. I also thank you for supporting me in many ways through this journey, whether that be doing household chores or making sure I had dinner to eat when I came home.

To my cast: Thank you for your patience and grace as I navigated new territory as a director.

To Xin Yi Toh: Thank you for being an amazing understudy and putting in the same effort as the rest of the cast.

To the crew: Thank you for sacrificing your time during the tech and dress rehearsals. The show wouldn't be able to go on without you.

To God: Thank you for never leaving my side and placing me in the right place at the right time. Thank you for your far reaching love and a testimony that I can share with other people.

PROGRAM ORDER:

FOUR WALLS

Song: "Dream of Arrakis" by Hans Zimmer

Dancer: Annika Stockbauer

WHY DO YOU HATE ME?

Song: "Fortune Days" by Glitch Mob

Dancer: Ashton Ritter

SLEEP WALKING

Song: "Quiet" by John Mayer

Dancer: Heidi Schoenhals

SMELLING THE FLOWERS

Song: "101010" by Sleeping at Last

Dancers: Annika Stockbauer, Hannah Lim

TAKING A HIKE WITH FRIENDS

Song: "Fly Down" by Stephen

Dancers: Ashton Ritter, Tacey Widrick

SEEING THE RAINBOW

Song: "Shatter Me" by Lindsey Stirling featuring Lzzy Hale

Dancers: Hannah Lim, Heidi Schoenhals, Tacey Widrick

WALKING THE SHORELINE

Song: "Pacific" by Sleeping at Last

Dancers: Annika Stockbauer, Ashton Ritter, Hannah Lim, Heidi Schoenhals, Tacey Widrick

CLOUD WATCHING

Song: "O" by Coldplay

Dancer: Tacey Widrick

GRASS STAINS

Song: "Kingdom Dance" by Alan Menken

Dancer: Hannah Lim

GO WITH THE FLOW

Song: "Sweet Ever After" by Ellie Holcomb featuring Bear Rinehart

Dancers: Annika Stockbauer, Ashton Ritter, Hannah Lim, Heidi Schoenhals, Tacey Widrick

BOWS

Song: "Freedom" by Pharrell Williams

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

We as a human race tend to put walls up that we think protect us. In reality these walls only block us from experiencing the world around us. Sometimes we just need a crack in the wall, whether that is a sliver of hope, another person, a different set of eyes, or even something else. That crack gives us the ability to tear down our walls and enjoy the world around us in full. We can finally discover that our walls only inhibited us and that there's safety outside too.

Tacey Widrick, Creator

CREATOR'S BIO

Tacey Widrick has been dancing for 20 years. She has been trained in ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and tap. She is currently finishing her Bachelor of Arts degree from Messiah University where she has appeared in numerous performances as a Givim ensemble member. She has been choreographing for 6 years. This is her first show to choreograph in full. She will continue to teach, dance, and choreograph upon graduation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features the following musical selections:

"Dream of Arrakis" by Hans Zimmer

"Fortune Days" by Glitch Mob

"Quiet" by John Mayer

"101010" by Sleeping at Last

"Fly Down" by Stephen

"Shatter Me" by Lindsey Stirling featuring Lzzy Hale

"Pacific" by Sleeping at Last

"O" by Coldplay

"Kingdom Dance" by Alan Menken

"Sweet Ever After" by Ellie Holcomb featuring Bear Rinehart

"Freedom" by Pharrell Williams

SILENT SKY Written by Lauren Gunderson, Directed by Daniel Inouye

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories. As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 6 – 8 at 8pm; Oct. 9 at 3 pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlley

Fall musical theatre cabaret. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 29 at 8pm; Oct. 30 at 3pm**

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Written by Robert Harling, Directed by Elizabeth Angelozzi

Steel Magnolias is set over the span of 3 years and tells the story of a group of friends, neighbors, and clients of hairstylist, Truvy Jones. The beginning of the play focuses on young Shelby who is preparing for her upcoming wedding. As Shelby's story progresses, we learn about her struggles with Type 1 diabetes, and her mother's concern about her leaving the nest and starting a family of her own. Although the ladies argue and tease each other, their friendship and sense of community holds them together. We see this at various points of crisis during the play and, ultimately, at the end when Shelby decision to go against her doctor's orders and have a child has dire consequences.

Miller Theater Nov. 10-12, 18-19 at 8pm; Nov. 13 & 20 at 3pm; *Nov. 17 at 10am special school performance

BLUE CHRISTMAS Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent. **Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 17 at 7pm**

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 2 at 8pm, Dec. 3 at 3pm; Grace Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 9-10 at 8pm, Dec. 10 at 3pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlley

Spring musical theatre cabaret. **Grace Pollock Dance Studio Feb. 4 at 8pm; Feb. 5 at 3pm**

CRIMES OF THE HEART Written by Beth Henley, Directed by Ed Cohn

The scene is Hazlehurst, Mississippi, where the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours in the local hospital. Lenny, the eldest, never left Hazlehurst -- she is the caretaker of the sisters' cantankerous Old Granddaddy. Meg, the middle sister, left home to pursue stardom as a singer in Los Angeles, but has, so far, only found happiness at the bottom of a bottle. And Babe, the youngest, has just been arrested for shooting her abusive husband, Zackery Botrelle. Their troubles, grave and yet somehow hilarious, are highlighted by their priggish cousin, Chick, and by the awkward young lawyer who tries to keep Babe out of jail. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface and each sister must come to terms with the consequences of her own "crimes of the heart." **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 16-18 at 8pm; Feb. 18-19 at 3pm**

2023 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way. This dance "lecture" explores and examines movement metaphors and images surrounding the idea of migration. **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 24 at 4pm; Feb. 25 at 8pm**

INTO THE WOODS Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine, Directed by Daniel Inouye

Based on the Brothers Grimm most popular folk tales, Into the Woods is a reimagining of what can happen when beloved fairy tale characters are thrown together while pursuing their dreams and wishes. The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning team of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine bring to life characters such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack (down from his beanstalk), the Baker and his wife, a pair of princes in search of their brides, and the big bad wolf who is on the lookout for his next meal. It intertwines these stories in increasingly dramatic and humorous ways and asks what comes after the "happily ever after" and whether the journey through the woods was worth it in the end. **Miller Theater March 23-25, 31 & April 1 at 8 pm; March 26 & April 2 at 3pm; *March 30 at 10am special school performance**

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater April 14 – 15 at 8pm**

CULMINATION '23: SPRING DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert! **Miller Theater April 21 at 8pm; April 22 at 2pm; *April 20 at 10am special school performance**